

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF *cg*

ROKOSCH *jsm*

THOMPSON *at*

CHILCOTT *g*

DRISCOLL *kd*

Present.....Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff,
Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg
Chilcott, and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll.

Date.....October 22, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for review of preliminary resolution to issue revenue bonds for WMMHC (Western Montana Mental Health). Present was Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

Glenda stated the public notice needs some modification before publishing. Further discussion followed regarding the previous meeting with WMMHC and their deadlines.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2292 for WMMHC bond issue. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion and all voted 'aye'.

► The Board met for discussion and possible adoption of Resolution No. 2289 – Commissioners Support of the Ravalli County Growth Policy. Present were Civil Counsel Karen Mahar and several citizens.

Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order and gave a review of the past meeting. She stated the meeting was continued for a legal review. Karen stated the Resolution is legal.

Commissioner Rokosch stated it is important in terms of the effect of repealing the Growth Policy would have on the conduct of County operations. The Growth Policy has been very beneficial to the Open Lands Program. It has been referenced in a number of voluntary zoning districts. It is an enabling document. It is a plan for the County to succeed. Without a plan, the County will fail.

Commissioner Driscoll stated she worked on the Growth Policy and this is a follow through of what was worked on by many citizens.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he also worked on the Growth Policy. It is a great tool. However, this is not about the Growth Policy but the Citizens Right to Vote and the arrogance of this Board to deny that right for months. He stated we have not debated zoning for months but centered on the right to vote. Now is a good time to let emotions recede and look at what has been learned from the zoning process. He stated he agrees with Commissioner Rokosch, if you have a business you need a plan. Now is a good time to take a break and let emotions fade. He stated the citizens do not trust the Board of County Commissioners to do the right thing. He cannot in good faith support the Growth Policy without the citizen's right to vote on zoning. He can't see this debate as getting better right now.

Commissioner Thompson stated he worked on the Growth Policy and spent many hours as well. Getting rid of the Growth Policy removes the options available. He is hearing a lot of folks not wanting zoning. The Growth Policy is a convenient way of getting rid of zoning. He disagrees with the discussion on zoning but does not want the Growth Policy repealed. This is one subject that is a huge topic in the community. One thing he constantly hears is that if the Growth Policy is not thrown out, the citizens will not have any trust in the Board of County Commissioners. He stated the Board started off on the wrong foot with zoning with the public release of Draft B. He supports the Growth Policy and does believe it is a good policy.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated she supports it as well. She wants to make it clear this is about supporting the Growth Policy not zoning. It is not to be taken lightly for the many, many hours the volunteers sacrificed to complete the policy. She then opened public comment.

Lee Kierig stated he supports the Growth Policy and it is an important tool. He has a lot of friends who worked on it. It gives order to chaos of fast growth. The things we want to see preserved to keep the valley the way it is depends on a Growth Policy. It is a way to keep the Planning protocol.

Laurie Riley stated she supports the Growth Policy. She stated she is proud of the Commission rising up in support of it.

Bob Frost stated he has worked over two years on the Growth Policy. He stated many people will be zoned with or without the Growth Policy if the city annexes the Flatiron Ranch it will be within a mile of that area.

Ron Kramis stated he would like to address Commissioner Chilcott's comment about trust. Trust of the Commissioners from people interested in any sort of planning is weak.

Chuck Roubik stated without zoning in place, this document is vital to guide the city and county for planning and growth. He stated the law provides an opportunity for the County to address zoning by statute. He does not know about the talk about denying the citizens a right to vote. He is in support of the resolution.

John Meakin stated he supports the Growth Policy. He stated he is disappointed in Commissioner Chilcott's decision to not support the Growth Policy. If there is an issue of zoning, then focus on the issue not the Growth Policy. There are a lot of people going to be disappointed with his decision.

Stewart Brandborg stated he has worked hard in the development of this document and supports this group's majority decision to support the Growth Policy. It is a challenge that builds on the fears of the community. There is a citizen involvement process with maps and approval. There is great concern with earlier drafts of zoning. He stated there are citizens in each community who contributed to the development of zoning regulations. That process is there and it is working. After this election, it needs to be revised. He asked to use skilled facilitators and build a level of trust. He requested to find a common ground. To use Planning Staff as facilitators was a mistake. He requested to move forward with the process. He stated we are on the edge on going ahead with the grand experiment in Ravalli County and bringing people together and can't for an instance repeal the Growth Policy as a foundation of what is to be built.

Curtis Cook stated he is in support of the Growth Policy. He stated this action of repealing the Growth Policy to stop zoning is like a farmer in the pasture with his horse eating the garden. Instead of building a fence, he shoots the horse.

Robin Rosten stated in this time, trust is an issue. If the Resolution is passed, in time the citizens will see this is not the end of the world. They are confusing it with zoning. She made calls in the County for understanding of the Growth Policy and they did not know what she was talking about. They thought she was talking about zoning not the Growth Policy. Trust will be reestablished.

Commissioner Grandstaff closed public comment and opened board deliberations.

Commissioner Thompson responded to the comment of Commissioner Chilcott's decision. He stated it shows balance and individuals should be able to speak their minds. He stated he has a different point of view, however he would support a difference of opinion from any Board member. Not everyone has to agree on this Board.

Commissioner Rokosch stated this Board has not been arrogant. He stated they have even been accused by the public of not being consistent. He stated there is a resolution to allow the citizens right to vote on any zoning prior to adoption. He stated he feels rather than being inconsistent and reactionary, the Board has been responsive and listened to the public's input on a wide range of issues on zoning. It has taken time on how the vote on zoning should occur and how to make it a rational decision beyond the emotions. He stated there has been some polarization and has been for over the past 25 years. There has to be common ground and consensus and agreement. It has been hard and not everyone is going to agree. He stated it is tough to start out talking about something you strongly disagree or agree with for common ground. He stated he wants to clarify the citizens will

have a vote on zoning. If they don't want it, it won't happen. He stated they need to separate the Growth Policy from the right to vote on zoning.

Commissioner Driscoll stated she would like to go over the past. The realtors came out against the Growth Policy. She was a minority. She stated Commissioner Chilcott has been consistent in his decision to not back the Growth Policy and has come out and said how he feels. She stated she appreciates the honesty. It has been a battle and it has been polarizing. It is a tool to help manage growth in a safe way. She stated we have to go through this and separate the Growth Policy from zoning. She stated she has seen citizens bullied for their hard work on the Growth Policy. She stated the Growth Policy needs to be backed by the Commission.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he appreciates Commissioner Driscoll and Commissioner Rokosch defining his position but would rather do that himself. This Board has sat through numerous meetings and have been educated on many topics. He stated he did support the Growth Policy however, he did not support the Growth Policy that was on the table and adopted. Over the last six years, he learned a lot about it. It was amended many times to protect private property rights. It was inconsistent to keep adopting those amendments. It was something to comfort people to protect private property rights. Being consistent is part of this job. It is an emotionally charged position. This is why he is recommending leaving the issue and letting it cool. He stated when the Growth Policy was adopted, it was defined in statute as a non-regulatory document however, it is a platform for zoning. He stated Drafts A and B were not well received. He stated his inconsistency on the Growth Policy is this, he thinks it is a good tool on the shelf. He stated he supports statutory zoning. When the densities and rural landowners came out, it was a problem. They look at it as their future economic stability. He stated while he believes the Growth Policy is good to have, it needs to be sacrificed to allow the community to heal.

Commissioner Thompson stated in a couple weeks from now, the Board will know exactly how the citizens feel.

Commissioner Chilcott stated if the Growth Policy is repealed, it should not be repealed for a long period of time. It should be revisited in a two year time period.

Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2289 Commissioners Support of the Ravalli County Growth Policy. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion. Commissioner Grandstaff, Commissioner Rokosch, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Driscoll voted 'aye' and Commissioner Chilcott voted 'nay'. Motion carried.

► The Board met with Public Health Nurse Judy Griffin to discuss the pay rate for the open public health nurse position and an update on the rabies issue in Stevensville.

Judy gave an update for the rabies issue. She stated the fourth clinic was done last night and the final one will be done on November 4th. Judy thanked County Attorney George

Corn and Karen Mahar for answering their legal questions. She reviewed some issues with follow up. She stated there will be an after action report. She stated one issue is ownership of the vaccine. Her concern is with the school buying the remainder of the vaccine and then disseminating to other entities. Judy stated she would prefer to ship it back to the State due to the insurance nightmare. She stated in a normal situation, the children would have been sent to a regular practitioner. The school's insurance would have had the costs all over the valley. After discussion, it was decided to have the clinics. Civil Counsel Karen Mahar reviewed the legal process with the Board and stated there will need to be a review on the emergency preparedness and emergency situations. Discussion followed regarding any liability of the County. It was decided to have Judy contact the State for possession of the remainder of the vaccine.

Judy discussed the pay rate for public health nurse position. She stated she would like the pay rate to be around \$18 to \$18.25 per hour. Commissioner Chilcott discussed the basis for the current pay rate and requested full disclosure for the possibility of the grant ending. Karen stated Judy should speak with Human Resources Director Robert Jenni and draft an offer letter.